Fondation Dalle Molle
Pour la qualité de la vie

Biographies of the Speakers

Mrs. Fabienne FISCHER
Councilor of the state of the canton of Geneva – Department of Economy and Employment (DEE)

Fabienne Fischer has been a member of the "Verts" since 2007. Elected municipal councilor in the city of Geneva in 2011, she resigned in 2012 to dedicate herself to her job as a lawyer. In 2021, she is a member of the cantonal office of the "Verts" and co-president of the Lancy section.

She is a member of the board of directors of the Geneva airport from 2012 to 2018, then of the Hospice General.

Fabienne Fischer won the March 28, 2021, elections for the Geneva Council of State with 47,507 votes (41.82%), ahead of the dismissed State Councillor Pierre Maudet (38,184), Delphine Bachmann of the PDC (15,408) and Yves Nidegger of the UDC (12,485). She will be officially sworn in before the Grand Council on April 29, 2021, and will head the Department of the Economy and Employment.

Prof. Giovanna Di MARZO SERUGENDO
Professor at the University of Geneva, Director of the University Informatic Center

Prof. Giovanna Di Marzo Serugendo received her Ph.D. in Software Engineering from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) in 1999. After spending two years at CERN (the European Center for Nuclear Research) and 5 years in the UK as Lecturer, she became full professor at the University of Geneva in 2010. Since 2016, she is the Director of the Computer Science Center of the University of Geneva, Switzerland. She has been nominated in 2018 among the 100 digital shapers in Switzerland. Her research interests relate to the engineering of decentralised AI software with self-organising and emergent behaviour. This involves studying natural systems, modelling their behaviour, designing and developing artificial collective systems, and verifying reliability and trustworthiness of those systems. Recently, she investigated the link between distributed AI and semantic reasoning. Her domain of research encompasses swarm robotics, smart grids, management of underground objects and digital twins. Giovanna co-founded the IEEE International Conference on Self-Adaptive and Self-Organising Systems (SASO) and the ACM Transactions on Autonomous Adaptive Systems (TAAS), for which she served as EiC from 2005 to 2011. She also set up the Digital Innovation Hub of the University of Geneva, which provides an innovation framework for digital academic services, as well as reach out activities for the general public as well as public, private and international organizations.

Prof. François FLEURET

Professor, head of the Machine Learning Group, University of Geneva, Titular Professor, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, External Research Fellow, Idiap research institute, Co-founder Neural Concept SA

François Fleuret is Full Professor and head of the Machine Learning group in the department of Computer Science at the University of Geneva, Adjunct Professor in the School of Engineering of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, and External Research Fellow at the Idiap research institute. He got a PhD in Mathematics from INRIA and the University of Paris VI in 2000, and an Habilitation degree in Mathematics from the University of Paris XIII in 2006.

He has published more than 80 papers in peer-reviewed international conferences and journals, is Associate Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, serves as Area Chair for NeurIPS, ICML, AAAI, and ICCV, and in the program committees of many top-tier international conferences in machine learning and computer vision. He was or is expert for multiple funding agencies.

He is the inventor of several patents in the field of machine learning, and co-founder of Neural Concept SA, a company specializing in the development and commercialization of deep learning solutions for engineering design.

His main research interest is machine learning, with a particular focus on computational aspects and sample efficiency.

Mr. Nicolas MIAILHE

Founder & President, The Future Society (TFS)

Nicolas Miailhe co-founded The Future Society (TFS) in 2014 and originally incubated it at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Incorporated as a nonprofit, TFS is an independent think-and-do tank specialized in questions of impact and governance of Artificial Intelligence. A recognized strategist, thought-leader, and implementer, Nicolas has lectured around the world, and advises governments, international organizations, philanthropies, and multinationals. He is an appointed expert to the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), where he co-chairs the Committee on Climate Action & Biodiversity Preservation. He also seats on GPAI Steering Committee where he represents civil society. Nicolas is also an invited expert to the AI Group of experts at OECD (ONE.AI & AIGO), and to the Global Council on Extended Intelligence (CXI), among others. Nicolas teaches at the Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po). He is also a member of three committees of the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethically Aligned Design of Autonomous & Intelligent Systems, and a Fellow with the Center for the Governance of Change at IE Business School in Madrid. An Arthur Sachs Scholar, Nicolas holds a Master in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, a Master in Defense, Geostrategy & Industrial Dynamics from Panthéon-Assas University, and a Bachelor of Arts in European Affairs and International Relations from Sciences Po Strasbourg.

Dr. Giacomo PERSI PAOLI
Head of the Security and Technology Programme at UNIDIR

Giacomo is the Head of the Security and Technology Programme at UNIDIR. His expertise spans the science and technology domain with emphasis on the implications of emerging technologies for security and defence. His recent work focused on arms control, technology horizon scanning, AI and cyber security. Before joining UNIDIR, Giacomo was Associate Director at RAND Europe where he led the defence and security science, technology and innovation portfolio as well as RAND's Centre for Futures and Foresight Studies. He served for 14 years as warfare officer in the Italian Navy and has been extensively engaged in small arms and light weapons research in support of UN processes. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Rome, Italy and a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Pisa, Italy. He speaks English, French and Italian.

Giacomo's areas of expertise include defence and security science and technology, innovation, emerging technologies, futures and foresight studies, and international security and disarmament.

Mr. Jean-Pierre RAUSIS
President of the Dalle Molle Foundation

President, Dalle Molle Foundation for the Quality of Life
Graduate in Education Sciences from the University of Geneva
Former Secretary General of the Dalle Molle Foundation
Founding member of the Idiap Research Institute.

Round table discussions

Ms. Ioana PUSCAS
Researcher on AI with UNIDIR's Security & Technology programme

Ioana Puscas is a Researcher on artificial intelligence with UNIDIR's Security & Technology Programme. Her work covers various aspects of AI and autonomy, including ongoing multilateral processes. Before joining UNIDIR, Ioana was Senior Research Officer at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), working on emerging technologies.
She holds master's degrees from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) and from Central European University.
Ioana's areas of expertise include artificial intelligence, machine learning, military human enhancement, emerging technologies and technological convergence.

Me Nicolas CAPT
Attorney-at-law, Founder Quinze Cours des Bastions
President-Founder of the Artificial Intelligence Geneva Summit (AIGS)

Nicolas Capt is an established and widely recognized specialist in media and technology law. In 2016, he was voted by the German magazine Bilanz as one of the top 100 people (digital shapers) working in the digital field in Switzerland and, in 2015, was included in the annual list of the "100 leading people of French speaking Switzerland ". He is specialized in issues relating to online reputation and IT/data protection and the management thereof, his expertise being regularly sought by public institutions, companies and private individuals who are particularly exposed in the digital arena (politicians, celebrities, business leaders, etc.). He offers comprehensive strategic assistance for the preparation and implementation of large digital projects, including in the specific field of AI. He is the founder of the AIGS, an international summit devoted to artificial intelligence from a holistic point of view, which has seen the participation of leading personalities from the worlds of science and the arts (Grégoire Courtine, Frédéric Beigbeder, Sylvain Tesson, Yves Daccord, Serge Tisseron, Marcel Salathé and many others). In 2021, he contributed to the collective work Code_IA Hard Law - Software published by Georg editor under the direction of Xavier Comtesse.

Dr. Ricardo ChAVARRIAGA
Head of CLAIRE Office Switzerland

Ricardo Chavarriaga is a neuroscientist and engineer in electronics passionate about responsible development and societal implications of technology. His work is focused on fostering research and innovation in emerging technologies towards the benefit of society.

He is the head of the Swiss office of the Confederation of Laboratories for AI Research in Europe (CLAIRE). CLAIRE is the largest European network on Artificial Intelligence (AI), comprising more than 400 research groups and 3'000 individual supporters. He is also senior researcher at the Zürich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) and Polymath fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP). He is chair of the IEEE Standards Association group on Neurotechnologies for Brain-Machine Interfacing, and co-chairs the IEEE P2863 Working group on Recommended Practices for Organisational Governance of AI.

Prof. Hervé BOURLARD
Director of the Idiap Research Institute, Full Professor EPF

Hervé Bourlard is Director of the Idiap Research Institute and Professor at EPF. Having been involved in signal processing, statistical machine learning, artificial neural networks, applied mathematics, and artificial intelligence for about 40 years, he is the author/co-author of over 400 reviewed scientific papers (including one IEEE best paper award) and book chapters, 8 books or edited books.

Hervé is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of International Speech Communication Association (ISCA), both for his fundamental contributions to research and leadership in the fields of statistical and neural network-based speech recognition. He is also an Elected Member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences, and the 2022 recipient of the IEEE J. L. Flanagan medal.

Having worked for academia as well as large (Philips Research) and small (startup) industries, Hervé has broad and deep experience in both the industrial and academic worlds. He has initiated and managed many national and international projects and is the recipient of several entrepreneurship awards.

Moderators

Mrs. Aurélie ROSEMBERG
Moderator

Engineer in information technology for health, graduate of the École Polytechnique Universitaire de Grenoble (France) and holds an MBA in management from the University University of Geneva. She has 20 years of experience in defining and deploying complex health and digital projects at national and international level and in managing digital health services. She is a member of the Swiss Club for Information Security (Clusis) and member of the Swiss Circle of Women Directors (CSDA). She also owns her own strategic consulting company in Lausanne, Switzerland (syrma.ch). She is responsible for the 50th anniversary of the Dalle Molle Foundation. The Dalle Molle Foundation created 4 internationally renowned research institutes in the fields of computer science, robotics and artificial intelligence 50 years ago, with over 300 researchers. She teaches digital strategy at the Fédération Romande des Entreprises de Genève (FER Genève), digital transformation at the University of Lausanne (Unil), and cybersecurity in healthcare at the University Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine of Lausanne (Unisanté). Passionate about data governance and the ethical issues raised by the use of new technologies, she has participated in and organized several international conferences on this topic.

Mr. Nicholas C. NIGGLI
Moderator

Nicholas Niggli is Deputy Secretary General, Republic and State of Geneva, Department of Economic Development. His mission is to strengthen Geneva's ecosystem and to strategically position it to benefit from the opportunities of the digital age but also the emergence of sustainable development economics. Since 2012, Nicholas has also been lecturing on complex negotiation dynamics, leadership, intercultural communication and global governance at the Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Geneva. From 2013 to 2017, Nicholas was Head, Economic, Finance, Science & Innovation Section at the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK while also leading the multilateral Association of Economic Representatives in London as Chairman. From 2002 to 2013, he was a senior trade negotiator covering the WTO. From 2007 to 2012, Nicholas was Chairman of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, leading negotiations to improve disciplines for this key world economy sector. From 2007 to 2013, he was also Chairman of the WTO Pension Plan Management Board, leading the retirement age renegotiation of the WTO international public service. Nicholas holds 1st Class Honours, master's degrees in Economic History & International Relations.